



NEW SALEM

Franklin County



[NARRATIVE](#)
[GEOGRAPHY](#)
[GOVERNMENT](#)
[DEMOGRAPHICS](#)
[HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS](#)
[TRANSPORTATION](#)
[CULTURE AND RECREATION](#)
[MISCELLANEOUS](#)



NARRATIVE

Narrative

New Salem is a small town that borders the Quabbin Reservoir and boasts one of the most beautiful, traditional town commons in the state, residents feel. New Salem, which itself is listed with the National Register of Historic Places, also houses the largest private collection of artifacts from the four towns which were unincorporated and buried by the Quabbin in the 1940's.

New Salem carries its Yankee tradition proudly, as evidenced by the amount of town business conducted by its residents who volunteer for the appointments. Yet, it is still home as well, to a flourishing artistic community.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

West central Massachusetts, bordered by Orange on the north; Athol and Petersham on the northeast; Quabbin Reservoir on the east and south; and Pelham, Quabbin Reservoir, Shutesbury, and Wendell on the west. New Salem is 29 miles southeast of Greenfield, 42 miles west of Worcester, 84 miles west of Boston, and about 175 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 58.75 sq. miles

Land Area: 45.02 sq. miles

Population: 802

Density: 18 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Tully Lake Station)

Normal temperature in January.....18.8°F

Normal temperature in July.....69.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....43.1"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Orange, Quabbin Reservoir, Winsor Dam, Shutesbury, Athol

Regional Planning Agency

Franklin County

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 544-6437

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1753

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	523		
Democrats	142	27.2	%
Republicans	87	16.6	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	294	56.2	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: New Salem town, Franklin County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	929	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	929	100.0
Male.....	475	51.1	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	8	0.9
Female.....	454	48.9	Mexican.....	1	0.1
Under 5 years.....	48	5.2	Puerto Rican.....	4	0.4
5 to 9 years.....	64	6.9	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	75	8.1	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	3	0.3
15 to 19 years.....	51	5.5	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	921	99.1
20 to 24 years.....	19	2.0	White alone.....	882	94.9
25 to 34 years.....	90	9.7	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	185	19.9	Total population.....	929	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	196	21.1	In households.....	929	100.0
55 to 59 years.....	59	6.4	Householder.....	379	40.8
60 to 64 years.....	50	5.4	Spouse.....	226	24.3
65 to 74 years.....	48	5.2	Child.....	252	27.1
75 to 84 years.....	30	3.2	Own child under 18 years.....	214	23.0
85 years and over.....	14	1.5	Other relatives.....	19	2.0
Median age (years).....	42.0	(X)	Under 18 years.....	6	0.6
18 years and over.....	704	75.8	Nonrelatives.....	53	5.7
Male.....	352	37.9	Unmarried partner.....	35	3.8
Female.....	352	37.9	In group quarters.....	-	-
21 years and over.....	685	73.7	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	115	12.4	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	92	9.9	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	44	4.7	Total households.....	379	100.0
Female.....	48	5.2	Family households (families).....	264	69.7
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	115	30.3
One race.....	909	97.8	Married-couple family.....	226	59.6
White.....	887	95.5	With own children under 18 years.....	92	24.3
Black or African American.....	7	0.8	Female householder, no husband present.....	31	8.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	5	0.5	With own children under 18 years.....	19	5.0
Asian.....	7	0.8	Nonfamily households.....	115	30.3
Asian Indian.....	-	-	Householder living alone.....	82	21.6
Chinese.....	-	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	30	7.9
Filipino.....	2	0.2	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	121	31.9
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	70	18.5
Korean.....	2	0.2	Average household size.....	2.45	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.88	(X)
Other Asian ¹	3	0.3	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	422	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	379	89.8
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	43	10.2
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	23	5.5
Some other race.....	3	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.2	(X)
Two or more races.....	20	2.2	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	9.1	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	379	100.0
White.....	906	97.5	Owner-occupied housing units.....	339	89.4
Black or African American.....	14	1.5	Renter-occupied housing units.....	40	10.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	18	1.9	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.52	(X)
Asian.....	8	0.9	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.88	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	4	0.4			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	0
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The major axes of transportation in Franklin County, where New Salem is located, are Route 2, and Interstate 91, which follows the Connecticut River. The region is well-served by rail. The Springfield Terminal Railway (the former Boston and Maine Railroad) lines parallel the two major highways, and the Central Vermont Railway's main line passes N-S through the eastern portion.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Route 122 and U.S. Route 202, which runs N-S and forms an interchange with State Route 2 in the neighboring town of Orange.

Rail

There is no commuter or freight rail service to New Salem, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Massachusetts is easily accessible.

Bus

New Salem is a member of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA). There is no fixed route service, but FRTA provides paratransit services for the elderly and disabled through the Orange Council on Aging.

Other

The Orange Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 5,000'x 150' and 4,998'x 150'. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.